REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-36 and 38-50 are presently active, Claim 37 is canceled without prejudice, and Claims 1-3, 6, 8-20, 22-29, 32, 35-36 and 38-50 are amended. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Ohishi (US Pub No. 2003/0028753).

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome because, in Applicants' view, amended independent Claims 1, 15, 29, 32, 40 and 43 patentably distinguish over Ohishi as discussed below.

Claim 1 is amended to recites, *inter alia*, "a user information input part for a user to input user information and user authentication information," "an external server communication part, which receives *pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network*" and "one or more authentication parts, which authenticate the user authentication information based on the received pre-registered user authentication information."

Instead, Ohishi shows a digital computer 100, which authenticates a user's password input by a user to operate a complex machine 1. However, Ohishi describes that the main controller 101 determines whether the entered password is a correct password that matches with the user name (Ohishi at paragraph 0043), and there are recorded passwords of multiple users in the storage device of the main controller 101 (Ohishi at paragraph 0045). That is, a reference password used for the authentication of the entered password is pre-stored in the main controller 101, i.e., in the complex machine 1. Thus, Ohishi does not disclose receiving pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network

and using the received pre-registered user authentication information for the authentication of the entered password.

Thus, Ohishi fails to teach or suggest at least "a user information input part for a user to input user information and user authentication information," "an external server communication part, which receives pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network" and "one or more authentication parts, which authenticate the user authentication information based on the received pre-registered user authentication information," as recited in Claim 1.

Likewise, Ohishi fails to teach or suggest at least "receiving a user information and user authentication information input by a user," "receiving pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network" and "authenticating the user authentication information based on the pre-registered user authentication information by one or more authentication parts," as recited in Claim 15.

Likewise, Ohishi fails to teach or suggest at least "a user information input part for a user to input user information and user authentication information," "an external server communication part, which receives pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network" and "an authentication part, which authenticates the user authentication information based on the received pre-registered user authentication information," as recited in Claim 29.

Likewise, Ohishi fails to teach or suggest at least "a user information input part for a user to input user information and user authentication information," "an external server communication part, which receives pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network" and "one or more authentication parts, which authenticate the user authentication information based on the received pre-registered user authentication information," as recited in Claim 32.

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Likewise, <u>Ohishi</u> fails to teach or suggest at least "receiving a user information and user authentication information input by a user," "receiving pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network" and "authenticating the user authentication information based on the pre-registered user authentication information by the authentication part," as recited in Claim 40.
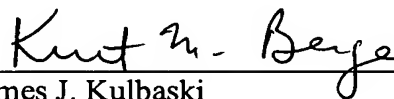
Likewise, <u>Ohishi</u> fails to teach or suggest at least "receiving a user information and user authentication information input by a user," "receiving pre-registered user authentication information from an external server through the network" and "authenticating the user authentication information based on the pre-registered user authentication information by the one or more authentication parts," as recited in Claim 43.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 15, 29, 32, 40 and 43 patentably distinguish over <u>Ohishi</u>. Therefore, Claims 1, 15, 29, 32, 40 and 43 and the pending Claims 2-14, 16-28, 30-31, 33-36, 38-39, 41-42 and 44-50 dependent therefrom are believed to be allowable.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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